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Amateur Radio's
WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER

REPORT

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DEVASTATING RAIN AND FLOODS, currently hitting California and the Southwest, have hundreds of Amateurs providing vital communications. In the hard-hit San Fernando Valley EC WB6VHS reports Amateurs are riding with rescue squads in four-wheel-drive vehicles, relaying assignments and warnings of new problem areas. In some cases the Amateur control stations, working directly with the various emergency services, are operating from police and fire communications vans. Over 100 Amateurs, many from as far away as San Gabriel and Orange County, are taking part in the San Fernando operation. 2 meters is carrying the bulk of the traffic, with 220 MHz providing backup. Among the many groups known to be involved are the San Fernando Valley Radio Club, the San Fernando Valley ARES, the WB6BJM Repeater Group, the Bel Aire Repeater Association, and the Valley Good Guys Radio Club.

Similar Amateur Radio emergency operations are taking place down the rain-drenched California coast to San Diego. In Orange County the 146.19-79 machine, WR6ACB in Anaheim, is working in the emergency full time. In the hard-hit Phoenix area, NBC newsmen Alan Kaul, W6RCL, has been airing reports of Amateur Radio's contributions. One included an estimate that 95 per cent of the relief traffic between Red Cross and Salvation Army shelters and relief was being carried by Amateur Radio.

The Emergency Was Still in effect at press time, and it looks likely that the need for Amateur Radio assistance will continue into next week. Los Angeles area Amateurs who can contribute as little as three hours of their time are asked to check in on the WR6AGP repeater, 147.63-03, for assignment and to arrange clearance through police lines. Most emergency traffic is going via WB6BJM/P on 147.60-00; WA6VNV/R is 220 backup. Thanks Westlink.

RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF AMATEUR frequencies for radio control has upset the R/C modelers. The issue arose following an FCC legal opinion that only a licensed Amateur can operate a model using 6-meter R/C; Amateurs cannot supervise another non-Amateur who is at the model's controls. Many modelers have been buying 6-meter control systems to avoid 27 and 72 MHz QRM problems, expecting to be "legalized" at meets by friendly Amateurs. Following the FCC legal opinion, however, the Academy of Model Aeronautics announced in January, 1980, Model Aviation that non-Amateurs using 6-meter R/C may no longer compete in AMA meets.

The AMA Is Pushing to reverse the FCC opinion, on the grounds that non-licensees are permitted to operate on the other R/C bands under a licensed operator's supervision. What the AMA overlooked, or perhaps intends to fight, is that Article 41 of the International Radio Regulations limits Amateur bands to licensed Amateurs!

REPORT...

AMATEUR RADIO COMPUTER Hobbyists Convention May 24-25 in St. Louis is being set up as a full family affair, beginning Friday night with a Cardinals-Padres baseball game. NBC's Roy Neal, K6DUE, will be featured at the ARRL joint Central and Midwest Division Convention. Write ARCH, Box 26, Marissa, IL 62257.

5TH WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE will be held March 14-16 in San Francisco Civic Auditorium and Brooks Hall. It boasts over 275 exhibitors and 60 speakers for the three-day program. A must for West Coast computer buffs. Contact Computer Faire, 333 Swett Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (415) 851-7075 for details.

IEEE IS SEEKING NOMINATIONS of prospective candidates to be considered for 1981 Fellow Awards. Candidates must be Senior members of IEEE, and criteria include individual professional accomplishments, service to IEEE and the profession, and total years in the profession. Request "Guide for IEEE Fellow Grade Nominations" from IEEE, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017 for details. Nominations are due April 30, 1980.

Jack Kelleher, W4ZC, is one of the select group announced recently as the IEEE's 1980 Fellows.

CANADA'S PARLIAMENT STILL has two Amateurs among its members following the election that returned Former Prime Minister Trudeau to power on Monday. VE5QN and VE3ANY both retained their seats despite their party's loss in the election. Thanks CARF.

FRESNO WILL HOST JY9BB, JY4MB, and possibly JY2RZ (Prince Riad of Jordan) at the April DX Convention (HRR 288). JY1, King Hussein, is sending a special message. Thanks Westlink.

EDWIN HOWARD ARMSTRONG, inventor of the superheterodyne receiver and FM radio, was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame at ceremonies February 10 in Arlington, Virginia. Armstrong, who died in 1954, has been ranked as "the U.S.'s greatest inventor since Edison" and "one of the last of the free-lance attic tinkerers."

A DOMESTIC QSL SERVICE, handling incoming and outgoing cards, is now available to U.S. Amateurs. The U.S. QSL Service, run by N6BMY and KB7JW, will handle all stateside cards, including KH6 and KL7, for 25 cents per 20 QSLs. For full details write USQS, 15871 South Howards Mill Road, Mulino, Oregon 97042 (include an SASE for response).

A NEW, INEXPENSIVE CRYSTAL FILTER is being made by KVG for use between the i-f and detector stages of modern HF receivers, to eliminate internally generated noise from high-gain ICs. The filter sells for less than \$16 and is available from Spectrum International, Box 1084, Concord, Massachusetts 01742.

WBØMSZ'S "DIRECTORY OF QSL Managers" is now being published by W6GO and K6HHD. The computerized list of over 4000 DX stations and their managers is \$1.75 first class mail (\$2.80 overseas) from W6GO or K6HHD at their Callbook addresses.

CLUB CALLSIGNS MAY turn up for consideration at this coming week's FCC Agenda Meeting. A decision on whether club callsigns will be continued or phased out in this final consideration of Docket 21135 probably will not be reached immediately, however.

AMSAT'S PHASE III-A SATELLITE will be flying earlier than planned. Latest word is that the launch date for Phase III has been moved back to May 20th from May 30th.

Acceptance Tests on the Phase III transponder (HRR 287) were successful and the unit has been approved and licensed by the Deutsche Bundespost.

The Phase III-A Spacecraft was shipped to Frankfurt on February 19 and then brought by a special trailer to Toulouse, France, for vibration tests (February 27) and final acceptance of the satellite flight plans. W3GEY, K1JX, DJ4ZC, and other members of AMSAT/Deutschland are en route to Toulouse to monitor the testing.

Solar Cell Sponsorship now totals 4414 solar cells and 43 battery cells.

A Volunteer Is Needed to help administer the solar cell program. If you are interested in giving a hand, contact AMSAT headquarters in Washington, D.C., (202) 488-8649.

Oscar 7 Will Be In Mode B February 22, 23, and 24 for a special demonstration in Belgium. The satellite is still performing quite well, with internal temperatures holding steady.

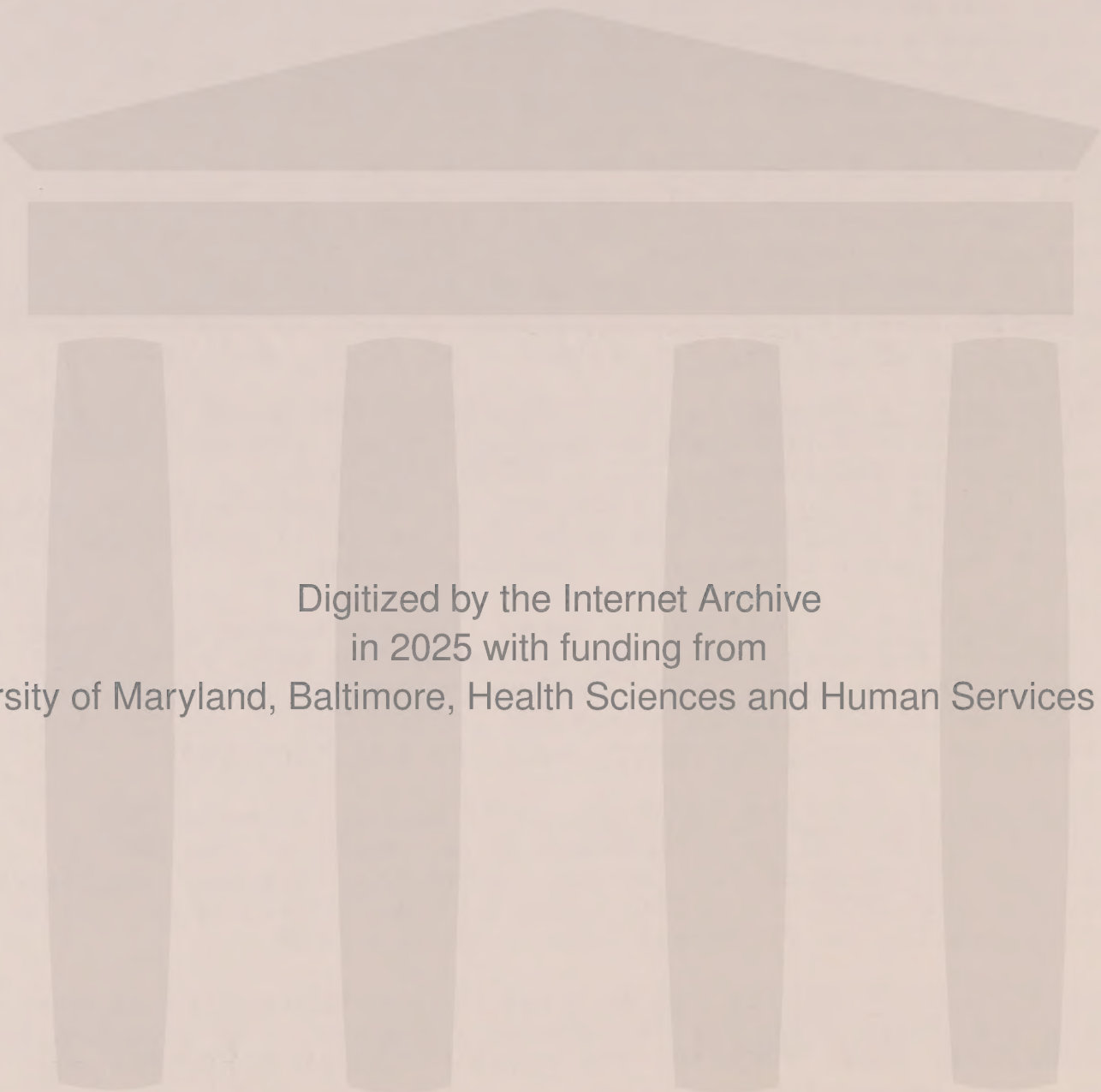
FCC'S DECISION ON whether to delay implementation of tighter RFI standards for computers (HRR 289) probably will be put off until some time in March. The Office of Science and Technology's review of petitions seeking the delay, scheduled to go to the Commissioners in early February, still is not finished.

OPERATION BY CANADIAN AMATEURS on 75 meters between 3950 and 4000 kHz is likely to be eliminated as a result of the CBC's plan to use two frequencies in that range for internal shortwave broadcasts (HRR 285). The CBC hopes to have 250-kilowatt transmitters operating on 75 by mid 1981. Thanks CARF.

LAKE PLACID APPARENTLY HAS several active Amateur Radio operations going during the current Winter Olympics. In addition to VE3OLP/W2 (HRR 290), WØRAN/2, for Winter Olympic Radio Amateur Network, is also active.

A PACKET RADIO REPEATER went into service February 10 in Ottawa, Canada, operating on 220.34 MHz. On the HF bands, VE7APU has a packet beacon going on 14.076 MHz. It's operating at 75 baud, transmitting for 30 seconds every five minutes using HDCL protocol. It is to be part of an HF packet net linking Vancouver with Saskatoon and Ottawa. Thanks CARF News Service.

VACATIONING IN THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS this summer? Reciprocal licenses are available to all General class or higher Amateurs. Send a certified copy of your license along with a postal money order for \$15.30 (payable to "Accountant General") to the Ministry of Communications, Works & Public Utilities, Government of the British Virgin Islands, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.



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hr REPORT...

PROPAGATION FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 11. Magnetic disturbances have been occurring on a 9- or 10-day schedule instead of the previously-noted 14- or 15-day period. At press time, the disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field expected on the 23rd and 24th has not yet taken place, but may make a shambles of weekend DXing and HF propagation as it did on the 16th and 17th during the DX contest. Contesters were wiped out at various times on all bands between 10 and 160 meters, while KL7-land reported a bright and colorful aurora February 15 and 16.

Further Geomagnetic Upsets are likely during the forecast period, as the solar flux — which peaked at 238 on February 4th, and declined to a value of 179 on the 20th — appears to be on the upswing again. New, active spot regions are on Old Sol's east limb, so be prepared for moderate solar activity with magnetic field disturbances between March 4th and 7th, and perhaps again between the 11th and 15th. W1XU.

A NEW 1296 MHZ RECORD was set January 23 when VK6KZ, Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia, worked VK5MC in Hatherligh, South Australia, a distance of 2290 km (1422 miles). VK6KZ was using SSB, while VK5MC was on CW.

New Australian 2 Meter and 70 cm DX records also were set by VK6KZ the same day: 2 meters with a 2785 km contact with VK3YLR in Korumburra, Victoria; and 70 cm with VK3ZBJ in Frankston over a 2716 km path. Thanks VK3ATN.

TI9, COCOS ISLAND, is being hinted for the middle of March by TI2NA. Thanks DX Bulletin.

ABU AIL MAY BE ON again around the end of March, with J28AZ and DJ9ZB of last year's trip doing the honors. Thanks QRZ DX.

MT. ATHOS WILL BE ON again in mid April. SV1JG's taking the same group that was there last August, SV0AC told W1HR Sunday, and official permission from the monastery is already in hand.

6 WAS OPEN TO SOUTH AMERICA every night during K1ZZ's recent operation from the Caribbean, he reports, but Dave never heard any signals from the U.S. ZS3E reports hearing 46 MHz U.S. signals February 13, but nothing on 50 MHz. On the 15th PY2XB had several KH6 contacts, heard the ZB2 beacon and HK FMers' around 0100Z; 51.75 MHz VK TV audio was in at KH6IAA for three hours starting at 0600Z; and WA6TFS heard JAs from 2100Z on. Aurora gave several Anchorage stations contacts with KL7NO, Fairbanks, and VY1AU and VE8BY, and HCl's JX and BI worked the south central U.S. The 16th was also good, with LU5DJZ working Californians and Hawaiians working as far east as Ohio. PP0MAG was also on. ZS3E Worked A Greek Station cross band to 10 on the 17th, when Western Australians heard 50 MHz BBC TV audio. WA6TFS had several ZL4 contacts, and KH6IAA worked into VK4.

SMIRK's DX Decade Award is now being handled by N5NKG, and applicants nervous about mailing rare 6-meter QSLs can now submit photocopies (front and back) to Dick's Callbook address. EI2W has had to delay his U.S. visit until October. Thanks SMIRK. W9JUV

